12: Routledge E-5 (1914-1915) 1920
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

Form of Structure.—The shape of the house, when the roof is added, noticeably resembles that of an inverted Canadian canoe, *i.e.*, both ends are alike, and as it diminishes in breadth, so does it diminish in height.

Earth Covering.—When the house is completed soil is placed over it; the depth of the roof may amount to about 2 feet. The anterior wall alone is left bare. Otherwise the house is so covered with earth as to blend with the surrounding surface (Plate VIII, Fig. 1).

Decoration.—The interior is often decorated by means of a white pigment, with which the walls and roof are covered, giving the effect of whitewash. The largest slabs—*i.e.*, those opposite the doorway, where they obtain most light—are frequently also adorned with designs in colour (Plate IV, Fig. 2).

Exterior Cavity for Stores.—Outside the house a small pit is not unusually found, a few feet from the door and in line with it. These pits are lined, and in the best specimen, also floored and roofed, with slabs. Nodules of volcanic ash were frequently found in them, which are said to have been used for heating purposes, and the pits were at first reported to have been used for cooking purposes. Later it was stated that they were intended to contain stores, and as practically no charred ash was found, this latter statement is probably correct (Plate VII, Figs. 1, 3). These pits are shown in the plan where discovered, but many are probably buried or destroyed.[1]

Kitchens.—The site of the cooking places was pointed out nearer the cliff edge. They were, it was said, simply cavities dug in the earth and not lined with masonry.

THE HOUSES IN NUMERICAL SEQUENCE.

Nos. 1 and 2 are covered by the same mound of earth. Their orientation is unique, as they stand at right angles to the crater, and also at right angles to the main row of buildings.

No. 1.

Condition: one-third of house at the north-west end broken down. Roof and part of wall absent. Panels[2] largely broken away.

Passage: 6′ 8″, outer end indeterminate, inner end 1′ 6″ × 2′ 1″; roof of flat slabs; has apparently never had panels.

Chamber:—23′ 0″ × 4′ 4″ × 4′ 3″. East end square, made from slab 3′ 6″ wide; west end rounded.

Decoration:—exterior, a large sculptured stone, contiguous to outer door but partially buried, was laid bare. It bore one small bird-man[3] figure and a larger design obliterated by weathering.

[1] The "drain for the dead," mentioned by Surgeon Palmer (*Ethnological Review*, Vol. I, p. 371), was carefully sought and excavated for, but could not be recognized.

[2] In the following description, for the sake of simplicity the lamine will be termed "panels" where employed vertically, and "slabs" when used horizontally.

[3] See below, "Carvings according to Type," *Bird-men*.